

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 1 and 15-18 are amended and claim 11 is cancelled. Thus, claims 1-10 and 12-19 remain for consideration of which claims 1 and 15 are independent claims.

The specification and claims 1, 13, 14, and 16 have been objected to for informal reasons. Applicant has amended the specification and claims 1, 13, 14 and 16, as set forth above, to overcome the informal errors identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the specification and claims 1, 13, 14 and 16 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,807,534 to Erickson (hereinafter referred to as "Erickson"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested, especially in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Erickson discloses a system and method for managing copyrighted electronic media. The copyrighted electronic media are packaged in a secure electronic format, and registered on an associated registration server. The registration server provides on-line licensing and copyright management for the media. Users are connected to the server, e.g., through a computer network or the Internet, to enable data transfers and to obtain licenses to utilize the media. The packaged electronic media are typically created by an author or derivative user of the work. Once the packaged media is registered on the server, the media is made available for limited use and possible license through an authorization server. This limited use is specified within the minimum permissions data set assigned to each packaged media. Without a license, users are typically permitted to view the packaged media using a system which unpackages the media, but cannot save or otherwise transfer the media

without obtaining auxiliary permissions to do so from the authorization server. The electronic media is authenticated through digital signatures and optional encryption.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to an apparatus providing a user access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents available through a computer network while preventing the user from directly accessing the computer network. Claim 1 of the present application has been amended herein to better distinguish the claimed invention over Erickson as discussed following.

Amended claim 1 in part defines an apparatus including a server computer being connected to a user interface via a first network interface, a computer network via a second network interface and a database via a third network interface wherein the first, second and third network interfaces are disjunct respective to each other such that the user interface, the computer network and the database are not in communication therebetween. Claim 1 further recites that a plurality of electronic documents are accessible to the server via the computer network and that the database stores data for authenticating the content of each of the plurality of electronic documents.

Additionally, amended claim 1 recites that the apparatus includes a verification server coupled via first and second disjunct network interfaces to the computer network and database. The verification server iteratively traverses the database and retrieves the authentication data corresponding to a next one of the electronic documents, retrieves the electronic document via the computer network, checks the authenticity of the content of the document and updates the database as to the status of the authenticity of the electronic document based on the results of the authentication check.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Erickson reference does not anticipate claim 1 as amended herein for at least the following reasons.

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claim invention, arranged as in the claim.

Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 1 is in part based on Figure 1 of the Erickson reference. According to the Examiner, Figure 1 of Erickson shows an apparatus having a first network interface, a second network interface and a third network interface which are disjunct with respect to each other such that the user interface, the computer network and the database are not in communication therebetween. (See Office Action, p. 4, ll. 13-16). Applicant disagrees. To anticipate a claim, a drawing must clearly show the structure which is claimed. In re Mraz, 455 F.2d 1069, 173 USPQ 25 (CCPA 1972). Applicant submits that Figure 1 of Erickson does not clearly show that the computer network is not accessible to the user interface and the database. Furthermore, the Erickson specification clearly recites the opposite. As set forth in Erickson, "user 96 has a VIEWER and is connected to the network through a communication line 97. The user 96 can thereby access the DOCUMENT 93 through the authorization server 94 up to the minimum permissions data set forth in the DOCUMENT format." Because, the Erickson specification expressly states that the user has access to the authorization server and the DOCUMENT 93, it cannot be maintained that Erickson discloses the disconnected user interface and computer network as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Erickson does not teach and every limitation of amended claim 1 as arranged in the claim.

Additionally, nothing in the Erickson reference teaches the apparatus of amended claim 1 including a verification server for iteratively traversing the database and retrieving authentication data corresponding to a next one of the

electronic documents, retrieving the electronic document through the computer network, checking the authenticity of the content of the electronic document using the authentication data and updating the database as to the status of the authenticity of the electronic document.

To support the rejection, the Examiner has apparently identified the PACKAGER of Erickson. (See, Office Action, p.4, ll. 17-19). However, the PACKAGER of Erickson is used by an author of an original or derivative work for packaging a copy of the work including affixing permissions and authorship information to the data. (See, Erickson, col. 15, ll. 45-47). Also, the PACKAGER can create and assign a unique registration ID to the document. (See, Erickson, col. 24, ll. 44-47). Nothing in the Erickson references teaches the apparatus of the present invention for providing access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents wherein a verification server iteratively retrieves and checks the authenticity of each of a plurality of indexed documents and updates a database with a status of the authenticity of the document.

Moreover, amended claim 1 recites a server, which, upon receipt of a user request for a document, the server confirms the document is indexed in the database, retrieves the document, and checks the document for authenticity prior to delivering the document to the user pursuant to the request. Nothing in Erickson discloses wherein the authenticity of the content of a requested document is checked and confirmed prior to returning the document to a user.

Clearly, the Erickson reference is directed only to protecting the rights of a copyright owner of electronic media and does not disclose the Applicant's invention of amended claim 1 which is directed to providing a user access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents available through a computer network and otherwise preventing the user from accessing the computer network.

For at least the above-identified reasons, the Erickson reference does not teach each and every element of the Applicant's claim 1 as arranged in the claim. Thus, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Erickson. Accordingly, the rejection of amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) should be withdrawn.

Additionally, pending claims 2-6 and 12-14 depend on amended claim 1 and thereby incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and also recite additional limitations. Since, for at least the above-identified reasons, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Erickson, dependent claims 2-6 and 12-14 are also deemed not anticipated by Erickson. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2-6 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should also be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,721,721 to Bates et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bates et al.").

Bates et al. discloses an apparatus and method for integrating a virus checking functionality into a computer database search environment to assist in protecting a user computer from contracting a computer virus when accessing search results. The apparatus includes providing a display representation of a result set in response to a search request based in part upon a virus status information associated with a portion of the records identified in the result set. The apparatus and method include providing a first computer to receive virus status information generated by a plurality of computers. The virus status information being stored in a virus database that is accessible to the first computer.

Whereas, Applicant's amended claim 15 recites a method for providing access to a select group of authenticated electronic documents over a network. The method includes first reviewing the content of each of a plurality of electronic documents to determine whether the content is acceptable based on the subject matter thereof.

Next, seed values are generated for each document deemed acceptable for use thereafter in authenticating copies of the document. Additionally, the method includes initializing a database by storing indexed information for identifying and authenticating each of the documents deemed acceptable, the indexed information including the seed values corresponding to the electronic documents. The method further includes retrieving from a network a copy of the indexed documents upon a user request therefor and returning the content thereof to the user following the authentication of the content of a retrieved document.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bates et al. does not disclose the method of amended claim 15. Amended claim 15 recites that each of the electronic documents indexed in the database has been reviewed and accepted based on the subject matter thereof. For example, if the system is being utilized for school children, the method may include accepting documents related to any subject matter that is determined to be educational which is not pornographic or otherwise objectionable. Alternatively, if the system is being utilized by the employees of a financial institution, acceptable subject matter for the indexed documents may be limited to matters related to finance and banking as well as restricting documents deemed pornographic or otherwise directed to objectionable subject matter.

Thus, amended claim 15 recites a method wherein a select group of electronic documents are retrievable from a network by a user of a system wherein the content of each of the documents has been previously reviewed and accepted depending on the subject matter thereof. Further, amended claim 15 recites a step of generating seed values for each of document accepted and initializing a database storing indexed information related to each document deemed acceptable. The Bates et al. apparatus and method does not teach or suggest the method of amended claim 15 directed to providing access to a select group of documents each of which have been

reviewed and accepted. Rather, Bates et al. is directed to integrating a virus check functionality into search engines for use with the Internet for evaluating a virus status for each of the files identified in a search. Additionally, Bates et al. does not disclose the method of claim 15 wherein information related to each of a select group of accepted documents are indexed in a database. Further, Bates does not disclose a method of providing access to a select group of documents wherein the content of a retrieved document is authenticated prior to returning the document to a user's computer.

For at least the above-identified reasons, Bates et al. does not teach and every limitation of amended claim 15 as arranged in the claim. Thus, amended claim 15 is not anticipated by Bates et al. and the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) should be withdrawn.

Additionally, claims 16 and 19 depend on amended claim 15 and thereby incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and also recite additional limitations. Since, for at least the above-identified reasons, amended claim 15 is not anticipated by Bates et al., dependent claims 16 and 19 are also deemed not anticipated by Bates et al. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should also be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erickson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,075 to Loukianov (hereinafter referred to as "Loukianov").

Claims 7, 9 and 10 each depend from and thereby incorporate the limitations of claim 1. It has been demonstrated above that Erickson includes insufficient teaching to anticipate amended claim 1. It therefore follows that Erickson contains insufficient teaching when taken either alone or in combination with Loukianov to render claims 7, 9 and 10 obvious.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erickson and Loukianov as applied to claims 1 and 7 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,779,039 to Bommareddy et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bommareddy et al.").

Claim 8 depends from and thereby incorporates the limitations of amended claim 1. As set forth above, Erickson includes insufficient teaching to anticipate amended claim 1. Therefore, Erickson contains insufficient teaching when taken either alone or in combination with Loukianov and Bommareddy et al. to render claim 8 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erickson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,398,245 to Gruse et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Gruse et al.").

Claims 10 and 11 each depend from and thereby incorporate the limitations of claim 1. As set forth above Erickson includes insufficient teaching to anticipate claim 1 as amended herein. Therefore, it follows that Erickson contains insufficient teaching when taken either alone or in combination with Gruse et al. to render claims 10 and 11 obvious.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bates in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,190 to Rust et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Rust et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 5,226,091 to Howell et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Howell et al.").

Claim 17 depends from and thereby incorporates the limitations of amended claim 15. As set forth above, Bates et al. includes insufficient teaching to anticipate amended claim 15. It therefore follows that Bates et al. contains insufficient teaching when taken either alone or in combination with Rust et al. and Howell et al. to render claim 17 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bates in view of Rust et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,526,092 to Nelson et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Nelson et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 4,509,851 to Ippolito et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Ippolito et al.").

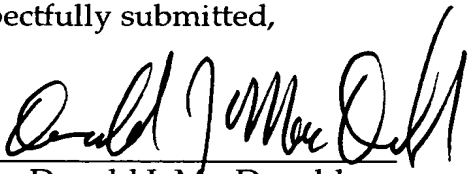
Claim 18 depends from and thereby incorporates the limitations of amended claim 15. As set forth above, Bates et al. includes insufficient teaching to anticipate amended claim 15. Thus, it follows that Bates et al. contains insufficient teaching when taken either alone or in combination with Rust et al., Nelson et al., and Ippolito et al. to render claim 18 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-10 and 12-19 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes that no fee is due in connection with filing this Response. However, please charge any deficiency in fee due or any other fee required for this application to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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